

# FACT SHEET

May 8, 2001



## EPA DELAYS EFFECTIVE DATE OF ST LOUIS AREA NONATTAINMENT DETERMINATION AND RECLASSIFICATION

### **TODAY'S ACTION**

- EPA is postponing the effective date – from May 18, 2001 to June 29, 2001 – of EPA's determination that the St. Louis area did not attain the ozone (smog) standard by its deadline.
- On March 19, 2001, EPA issued a formal determination, with an initial effective date of May 18, that the St. Louis area did not attain the ozone standard by its deadline. As the Clean Air Act requires, EPA also provided notice that once the determination is effective, the area is reclassified from "moderate" to "serious."
- Postponing the effective date of the nonattainment determination until June 29 provides regulated entities in the St. Louis area with time to prepare for new requirements that would apply if the reclassification takes effect.
- In addition, the postponement allows EPA to complete its rulemaking on whether the St. Louis area should be granted an extension of its attainment date on grounds that pollution from upwind areas contributes to ozone levels in the St. Louis area. EPA has proposed that if the agency approves an attainment date extension prior to the effective date of the March 19 determination, EPA would withdraw its determination of nonattainment and notice of reclassification.
- If the March 19 determination is withdrawn, and an extension of the attainment date is granted, the St. Louis area would retain its moderate classification while working to attain the 1-hour ozone standard by November 2004 and serious area requirements would not be triggered in the St. Louis area.
- On April 3, 2001, EPA published a proposal to approve Missouri's and Illinois' plans to attain the ozone standard and to extend the St. Louis area attainment date to November 15, 2004. The justification for an extension to the attainment date is discussed in the April 3, 2001, Federal Register, and in more detail in an April 17, 2000, proposal. On April 3, EPA also proposed to withdraw the March 19 nonattainment determination if it extended the attainment date before the determination became effective. The public comment period ended May 3 and EPA is currently evaluating all comments received.
- The St. Louis nonattainment area includes Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair counties in Illinois; and the city of St. Louis and Franklin, Jefferson, St. Charles and St. Louis counties in Missouri.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Contacts for this action are Ed Doty, EPA Region 5 - Chicago, IL at (312) 886-6057; or Lynn Slugantz, EPA Region 7 - Kansas City, KS at (913) 551-7883.